

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 44

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
12 DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
13 SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL.

14  
15 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande, the second largest river system  
16 in the country, flows nearly five hundred miles through the  
17 heart of New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande is a precious lifeline that  
19 connects nature, history, culture and communities across  
20 millennia; and

21 WHEREAS, the 2004 statewide comprehensive outdoor  
22 recreation plan identified trails as the number one recreation  
23 priority for the public in New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, across the United States, trails are important  
25 components of recreation, tourism, economic development,

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1 conservation, alternative transportation, education and health  
2 and fitness strategies; and

3 WHEREAS, an extensive network of routes suitable for trail  
4 use by the public already exists along large portions of the  
5 Rio Grande valley; and

6 WHEREAS, the development of a Rio Grande trail along as  
7 much of the river corridor as feasible and appropriate would  
8 create significant public benefits for New Mexico by connecting  
9 communities, promoting recreation and healthy lifestyles,  
10 stimulating tourism and economic development and supporting  
11 river and bosque education and protection; and

12 WHEREAS, the development of the Rio Grande trail will  
13 require a multiyear effort involving the cooperation and  
14 commitment of diverse local, state, federal, tribal and private  
15 entities; and

16 WHEREAS, route selection and planning for the Rio Grande  
17 trail must respect all landowners, especially private  
18 landowners and the sovereign governments of New Mexico's tribes  
19 and pueblos; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has appropriated four  
21 million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the first phases of planning,  
22 design and construction of the Rio Grande trail;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the proposed Rio Grande trail be a  
25 project of statewide and national significance that should be

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1 completed as soon as possible for the benefit of present and  
2 future generations; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of  
4 the energy, minerals and natural resources department be the  
5 lead agency for the completion of the Rio Grande trail; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature  
7 endeavor to support completion of the Rio Grande trail by  
8 providing, to the extent possible, regular, sustained funding  
9 to the energy, minerals and natural resources department to  
10 facilitate planning, environmental compliance, route  
11 designation, construction and maintenance; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of  
13 the energy, minerals and natural resources department endeavor  
14 to develop and stimulate private sector, nongovernmental  
15 participation and support for the Rio Grande trail that  
16 supplements public funds for the project; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of  
18 transportation be requested to partner with the energy,  
19 minerals and natural resources department in the project and  
20 provide, to the maximum extent feasible, funding from the  
21 federal transportation enhancement program to help complete the  
22 Rio Grande trail; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional  
24 delegation be requested to endeavor to support completion of  
25 the Rio Grande trail by encouraging the participation of

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1 affected federal agencies in the project and by seeking  
2 appropriate federal funding support from diverse sources; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
5 resources, the secretary of transportation and the members of  
6 the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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